

# *St. Helens Police Department*

## **2021 Annual Report**



*The mission of the St. Helens Police Department is to work with all citizens to make our city a place where people live safely, and to promote individual responsibility and community commitment.*



## Contents

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE .....	2
DEPARTMENT BUDGET .....	3
2021 DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE.....	4
2021 ITEMS OF INTEREST.....	5
ST. HELENS POLICE STATISTICS .....	6
CODE ENFORCEMENT .....	14
INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION .....	15
STAFF UPDATES.....	16
DEPARTMENT MEMBERS.....	18
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	27

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



On behalf of the St. Helens Police Department, I am pleased to submit the 2021 St. Helens Police Department Annual Report. This report contains a summary of the Department's accomplishments and highlights the employee's achievements for 2021. The St. Helens Police Department strives to provide excellent police service each day and is constantly evolving to meet these efforts.

Our staff is committed to providing our community with the highest level of support, both professionally and personally. We believe in our staff and providing them with the necessary tools to respond to emergencies, solve problems, and be good community members.

The St. Helens Police Department works hard to provide the highest standard of law enforcement and customer service to its citizens. We strive to build the best police force possible. We believe we have put together a proactive, community-oriented force. We want sworn and non-sworn staff made up of individuals who are not just members of the Police Department, but also represent our diverse community. We believe that our officers are part of our community and interacting with our community improves the livability for every citizen.

We are fortunate in St. Helens to serve an incredible community, and we are privileged to have a unique bond with the citizens we serve. I would like to thank the citizens and visitors of St. Helens, and especially the men and women of the St. Helens Police Department, for making St. Helens one of the greatest places to live, work, play, and visit.

Respectfully,

Chief Brian Greenway

St. Helens Police Department

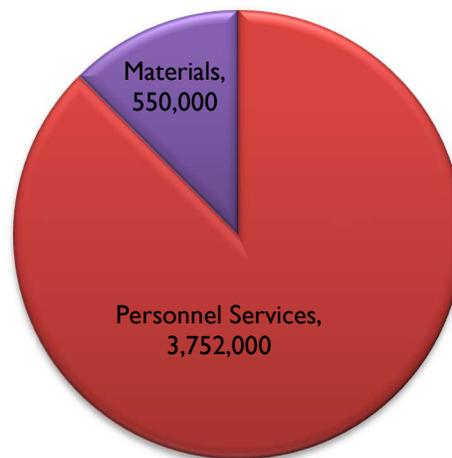
## DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The following table compares the size of the St. Helens Police Department and its budget between fiscal years 2018-19 through 2021-22.

	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
Population	13,240	13,410	13,915	14,560*
Total Budget	\$3,059,500	\$3,505,000	\$3,819,000	\$4,302,000
Sworn Personnel	17	19	19	20
Non-Sworn Personnel	2.5	3	3	3
Department Personnel Total	19.5	22	22	23
Officers Per Thousand Residents	1.28	1.42	1.37	1.37

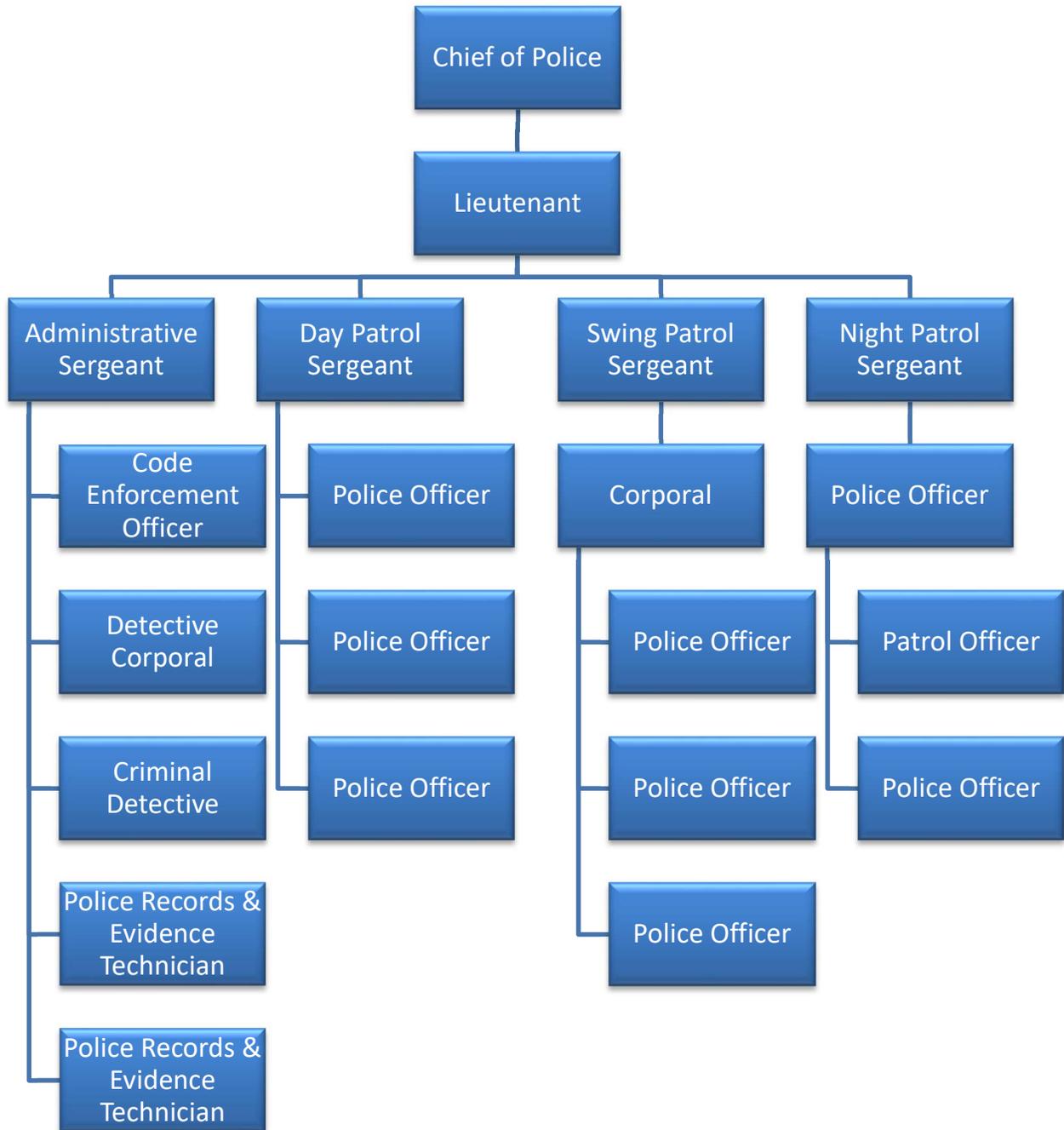
*\*PSU certified population estimates used*

### ADOPTED BUDGET FY 2021-22



The total budget for the St. Helens Police Department during FY 2020-21 is \$3,819,000

## 2021 DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE



## 2021 ITEMS OF INTEREST

**COVID-19** The St. Helens Police Department continued to navigate the many changes in COVID-19 guidelines that were issued at a state and federal level while continuing to ensure the same level of service to the St. Helens community. Mask mandates, social distancing guidelines, quarantine procedures, and capacity limits for businesses and events all changed in response to fluctuations in COVID-19 case counts.

**POLICY CHANGES** – The St. Helens Police Department continued to review its current policies and make updates where necessary to ensure our policies matched policing best practices and state legislation updates.

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY PROJECT** – The City embarked on a major project in 2020 to build a modern public safety facility in St. Helens. In 2021, police personnel worked with City staff and project consultants toward a finalized floor plan for the new facility.

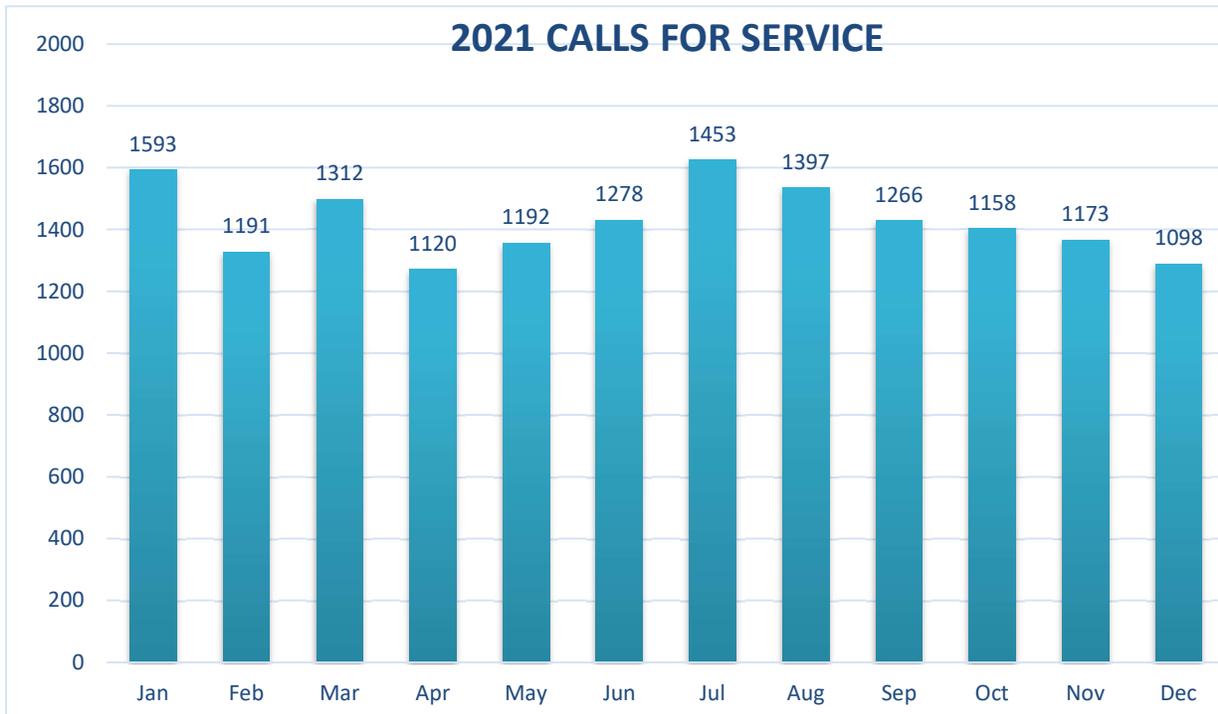
**COMMUNITY EVENTS** – With COVID-19 restrictions partially lifting, the St. Helens Police Department participated in the City’s summer Citizens Day in the Park event where department staff hosted a booth to engage with citizens. Foot patrols were conducted at the City’s Independence Day celebration and fireworks show. Officers also assisted with the St. Helens High School’s 2021 drive-through graduation ceremony on the steps of the Columbia County Courthouse building.

**STAFF RECOGNITION** – The outstanding efforts of the St. Helens Police Department staff were on display this year in several ways.

- On September 17, 2021, St. Helens Lieutenant Joe Hogue was sworn in as the second vice chair of the Oregon Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates. This non-profit organization offers training opportunities, covers trends and best practices in law enforcement, offers scholarships to law enforcement students, and sends candidates to the FBI Youth Leadership Program.
- St. Helens Officer McKenzie McClure became a certified instructor in driving while impaired (DWI) detection and standardized field sobriety testing (SFST) in December 2021. Officer McClure is the first St. Helens female officer to complete the training and become a certified instructor.
- In December 2021, the St. Helens Police Department hosted an awards banquet where exemplary service awards were given for three incidents, life saving awards were given for six incidents, and two service awards were presented. These commendations are given to recognize exemplary officer conduct that goes beyond the high level of professional conduct expected of St. Helens officers. In total, 22 officer commendations were presented for exemplary conduct.

## ST. HELENS POLICE STATISTICS

The St. Helens Police Department receives dispatch services from the Columbia 911 Communications District (C-COM). A “call for service” is a request for police service in which an officer is dispatched, or an incident is found by an officer and the officer initiates a call. The following graph details the total calls for service as documented by C-COM each month during the calendar year.



The St. Helens Police Department recorded a total of **17,131** calls for service during the 2021 calendar year. St. Helens Police noted a 4% increase in calls for service over the previous year. October and December showed the greatest decrease, while January and April recorded higher calls for service than in 2020.

When a call for service is received by C-COM it is assigned a call type. Once again in 2021, next to officer-initiated traffic stops, “Suspicious Circumstances, Person, or Vehicle” continues to be the most common type of call for service. This statistic accentuates the proactive work of our officers who self-initiate this call type when they see something out of the ordinary. It also lends to the positive relationship the community has with our department and the citizenry’s readiness to engage with our services.

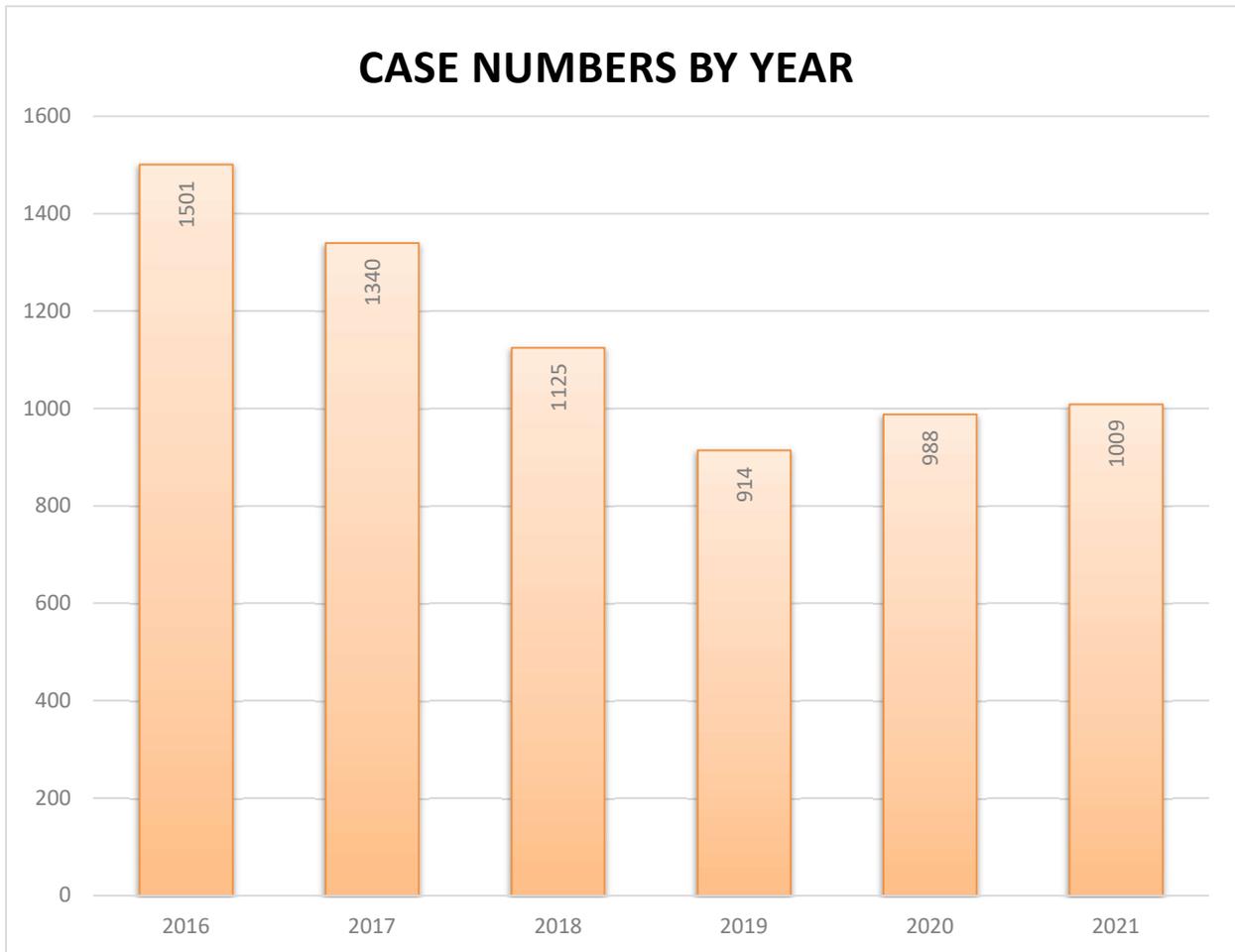
The table below details some of the most used call types over the past five years. In March of 2018, C-COM made some changes to how call types are classified or grouped together. Asterisks (\*) denote some notable changes in call types and therefore counts.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Total Dispatched Incidents</b>	16,852	17,953	18,207	16,491	17,131
<b>Suspicious (Circumstances, Person or Vehicle)</b>	1,866	1,500	1,657	1,792	1,595
<b>Assist Public</b>	759	831	806	1,132	1,243
<b>Theft</b>	431	412	369	367	376
<b>Disturbance/Fight *</b>	326	372*	290	319	279
<b>Welfare Check</b>	276	321	388	426	392
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	229	292	265	270	268
<b>Juvenile Calls for Service **</b>	24	284 **	247	258	225
<b>Traffic Complaint</b>	277	260	274	258	284
<b>Alarm Silent/Audible</b>	331	256	250	277	308
<b>Harassment</b>	159	252	291	324	344
<b>Criminal Mischief</b>	132	168	132	158	118
<b>Traffic Accident</b>	247	168	168	133	152
<b>Suicide (Threat or Attempt)</b>	144	130	127	127	102
<b>Abandoned 911/Hang up</b>	91	123	93	76	74
<b>Drug Activity</b>	93	96	101	87	53
<b>Hit and Run</b>	102	89	81	73	86
<b>Prowler</b>	50	54	36	40	41
<b>Assault</b>	61	44	55	47	50
<b>Burglary</b>	43	43	39	42	50
<b>Sex Crime</b>	33	41	50	70	47
<b>Death Investigation</b>	9	11	18	25	14

\* In 2018, “Disturbance” and “Fight in Progress” were merged, and “Fight in Progress” was eliminated.

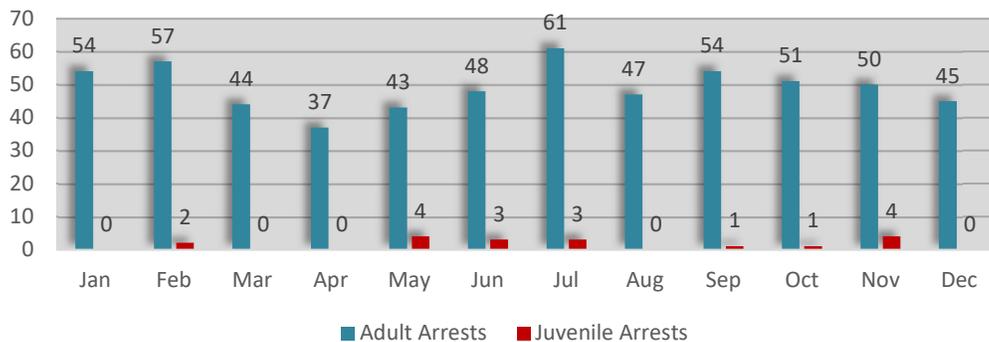
\*\* In 2018, Juvenile-involved calls for service have been changed to include four different previous types: “Juvenile Problem,” “Juvenile Custody Dispute,” “Juvenile Missing,” and “Juvenile Runaway,” thus the number since 2018 reflects all four (4) call types and does not necessarily represent a trend of increased juvenile-involved calls.

Not every call for service generates a police report. In fact, most of our calls for service are handled informally without any administrative action taken. When it is necessary to write a police report, the report is assigned a case number. The St. Helens Police Department used **1,009** case numbers in 2021. This was a 2% increase from the previous year, while in the midst of a pandemic. The following graph details the number of case numbers used during the past five (6) calendar years. One reason for the decrease in case numbers is that new technology and updated policy have been used to improve processes regarding motor vehicle collisions. Officers can digitally record the necessary DMV reporting information in the field and clear a scene without having to return to a desk to write a formal report. This change has empowered officers to be more proactive and available to the public during their shifts.



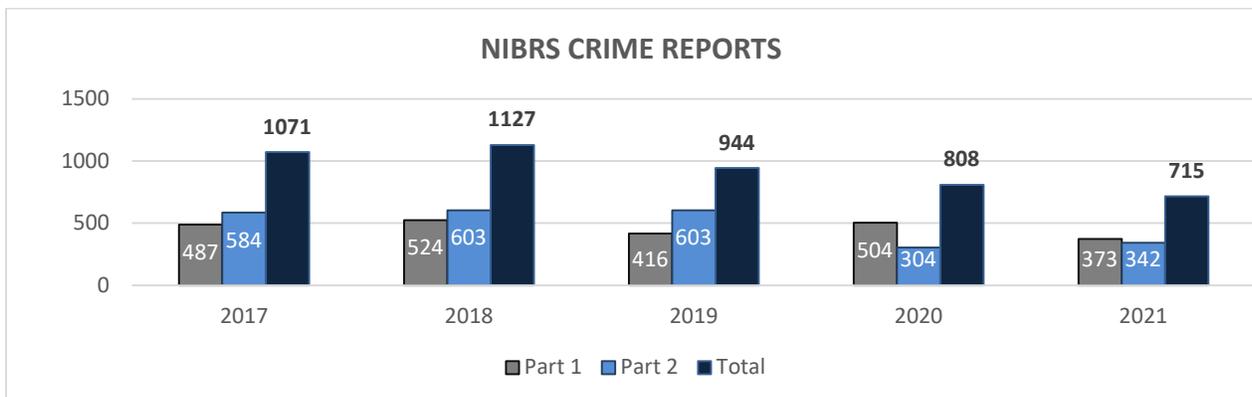
St. Helens police officers are also responsible for arresting criminal suspects. Many of these suspects are arrested as part of a criminal investigation, while others are the subject of outstanding arrest warrants. In some cases, involving juvenile arrests, the suspect is taken into physical custody; however, most of these cases involve a simple referral to the Columbia County Juvenile Department. During the 2021 calendar year, the St. Helens Police Department was responsible for the arrest of 591 adult offenders. The following chart details 2021 arrests by month.

### 2021 ARREST DETAIL



The St. Helens Police Department submits all crime data to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) of the FBI. NIBRS is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 18,000 city, university and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on offenses reported or known. Through NIBRS, the Police Department reports data on each offense within 52 specific crimes identified as Group A offenses, and 10 other categories identified as Group B offenses.

The following chart details the total number of Group A and Group B offenses that have occurred in St. Helens over the past five (5) calendar years.



Our department receives this data from the Regional Justice Information Network (RegJIN). RegJIN is a multi-agency shared Records Management System designed to provide a common platform for police reports to increase collaboration between regional law enforcement agencies. As part of our agency's contract with RegJIN they collect and report our NIBRS relevant data to the FBI, and we in turn look at those numbers as part of our annual, statistical self-analysis.

To evaluate the data in more detail, it may be helpful to see just a few of the offense categories and compare the numbers with data collected over the past four (4) years.

		2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Group A</b>	Rape	8	7	9	6
	Robbery	1	3	0	3
	Assault Felony*	16	24	23	18
	Assault Misdemeanor	45	49	42	53
	Burglary	15	15	22	32
	Theft**	196	126	123	119
	Theft of Vehicle	16	13	29	37
	Vandalism	38	33	37	33
	Drug Offense***	89	60	65	22
<b>Group B</b>	Warrants	195	221	203	221
	Disorderly Conduct	35	42	41	34
	DUII	100	48	55	63
	Trespassing	40	33	46	56

\* Simple Assault Felony includes aggravated assault.

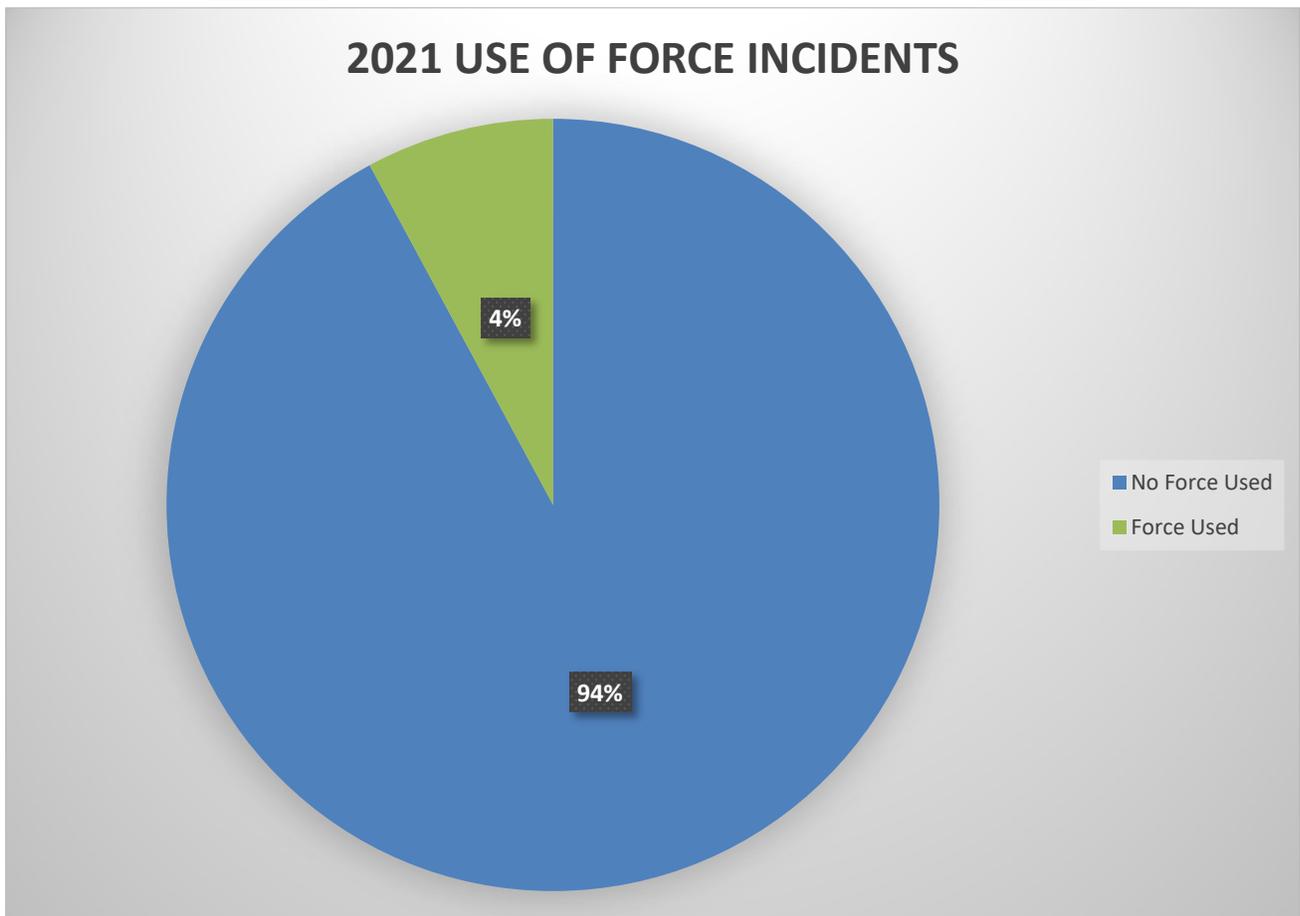
\*\* Theft includes several types of larcenies, theft of services, and shoplifting.

\*\*\* Oregon Measure 110 was passed in November 2020 which decriminalized the personal possession of illegal drugs, thus greatly decreasing the number of drug offense charges in 2021.

In a very small percentage of arrest incidents force is used to effect the arrest. For reporting purposes, physical force is defined as any use of a firearm, Taser, oleoresin capsicum spray (OC) and other weapons, active counter strikes, or other physical force applied on a combative or resistive person. Use of force does not include mere presence, verbal commands, passive contact, or routine handcuffing techniques.

- During 2021, force was used in 22 of the 591 arrests, or 3.7% of the time.
- The most common type of force was Takedowns.

The St. Helens Police Department prides itself on its expert de-escalation training and field implementation. These techniques allow officers to avoid the use of force in complicated and tense situations.



In addition to calls for service, officers from the St. Helens Police Department are actively engaged in traffic enforcement. The focus of our traffic enforcement efforts is not based on issuing citations; rather it is aimed at changing or modifying unsafe driving behavior. The St. Helens Police Department conducted **2,131** traffic stops and issued **442** citations during the 2021 calendar year. This translates to approximately 79% of all traffic stops resulted in warnings. The following graph details the number of traffic stops each month over the past year.



The most commonly issued citations entered into the St. Helens Municipal Court in 2021 include:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Violation of Speed Limit	98	57
Driving While Suspended	239	192
Driving Uninsured	52	45
Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants	55	63
No Operator's License	31	41
Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device	23	17



## CODE ENFORCEMENT

Our Code Enforcement Officer responds to complaints that are related to the enforcement of City codes including animal control issues and nuisance violations like garbage, noxious weeds, and parking complaints.



In 2021, the Police Department responded to a total of 548 animal complaints. Officer Moreno also responded to, or initiated, 155 city code violations and 200 parking complaints this past year. Officer Moreno and sworn police officers continued to respond to citizen's concerns and during the pandemic, ensuring the safety of our community and livability within of St. Helens. Our department continued to engage the community on a daily basis and not just in emergency or enforcement situations.

The following chart details the code enforcement activity over the past year.



## INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The St. Helens Police Department Investigations Unit has completed a total of 438 total reports in 2021. These reports did not include the review of 217 Department of Human Service Child Abuse reports, which were sent to the St. Helens Police Department in 2021.



St. Helens Police Detectives review all child abuse reports that are forwarded to the St. Helens Police Department.



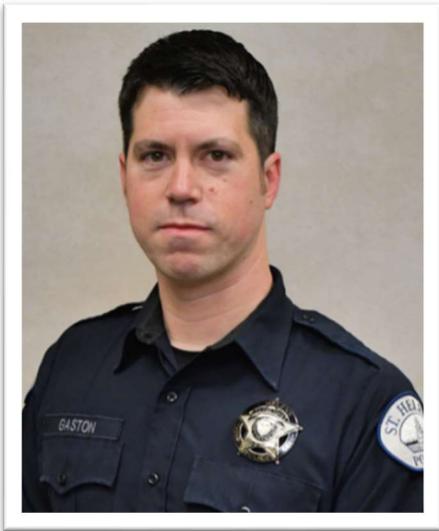
St. Helens Police Detectives have completed 38 Search Warrants in 2021. These Search Warrants have resulted in the seizure of approximately 500,000 to 1,000,000 images of child pornography, the recovery of stolen property, bank statements related to financial elder abuse, cellular telephone GPS data, and digital devices that were suspected of being used in the distribution and possession of child pornography.



## STAFF UPDATES

2021 was another invigorating year that brought changes for the St. Helens Police Department. The dedicated men and women of this Department evolved, reflected, and made new community connections.

## PROMOTIONS



**Officer Dylan Gaston** was promoted to Detective on January 1, 2021. Officer Gaston graduated high school in Hillsboro, Oregon; then attended Arizona State University where he received a bachelor's degree in Justice Studies and a master's in Criminal Justice. He worked as a records specialist at Washington County Sheriff's Office and as a court clerk at the Oregon Department of Justice. Officer Gaston graduated from the St. Helens Police Department Reserve Academy and served as a reserve officer before he was hired as a full-time officer in June 2015. In 2019, he was promoted to the position of School Resource Officer. In 2021 he was promoted to Detectives where he serves an important role in our department.

## NEW HIRES



Officer McKenzie McClure was hired as a lateral officer on June 30, 2021. Officer McClure worked for the Scappoose Police Department prior to being hired at St. Helens.



Officer Luke Marshall was hired as a lateral officer on June 30, 2021. Officer Marshall worked for Washington County prior to being hired at St. Helens.

## DEPARTMENT MEMBERS



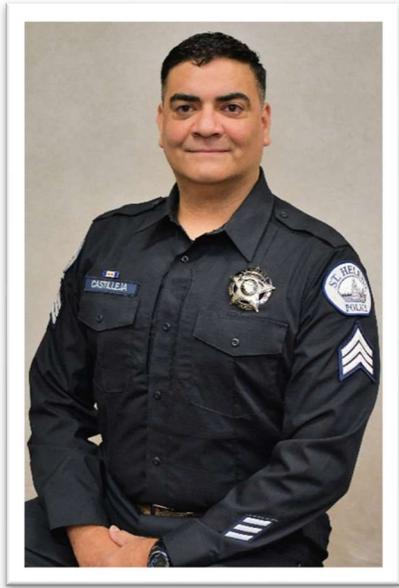
Chief of Police Brian Greenway

Serving St. Helens since August 13, 2018



Police Lieutenant Joe Hogue

Serving St. Helens since September 1, 1998



Police Sergeant Jose Castilleja

Serving St. Helens since August 6, 2007



Police Sergeant Evin Eustice

Serving St. Helens since August 2, 2016



Police Sergeant Jon Eggers

Serving St. Helens since September 13, 1999



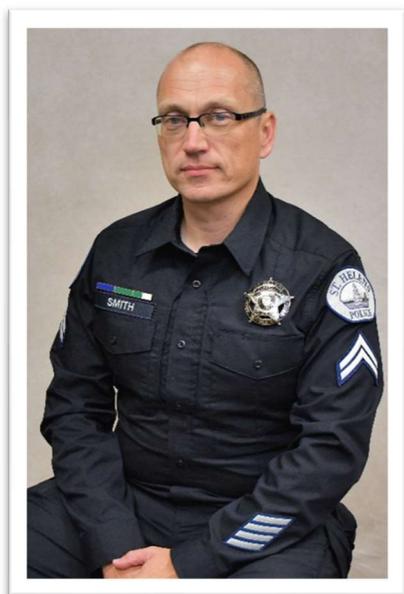
Police Sergeant Doug Treat

Serving St. Helens since July 20, 2020



Police Corporal Dustin King

Serving St. Helens since November 2, 2015



Police Corporal and Detective Matt Smith

Serving St. Helens since July 20, 2020



Police Detective Dylan Gaston

Serving St. Helens since June 3, 2015



Patrol Officer Anthony Boswell

Serving St. Helens since April 10, 2017



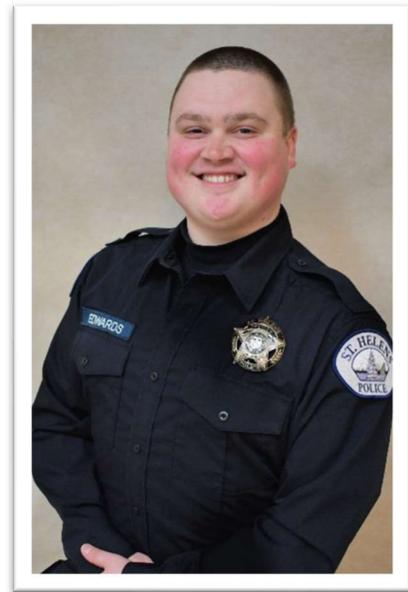
Patrol Officer Jamin Coy

Serving St. Helens since July 15, 2015



Patrol Officer Bryan Cutright

Serving St. Helens since February 7, 2018



Patrol Officer Kolten Edwards

Serving St. Helens since November 5, 2018



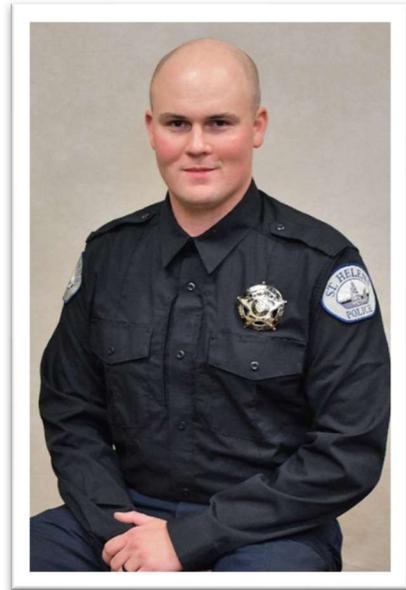
Patrol Officer Adam Hartless

Serving St. Helens since April 3, 2017



Patrol Officer Jeremy Howell

Serving St. Helens since October 3, 2004



Patrol Officer Luke Marshall

Serving St. Helens since June 30, 2021



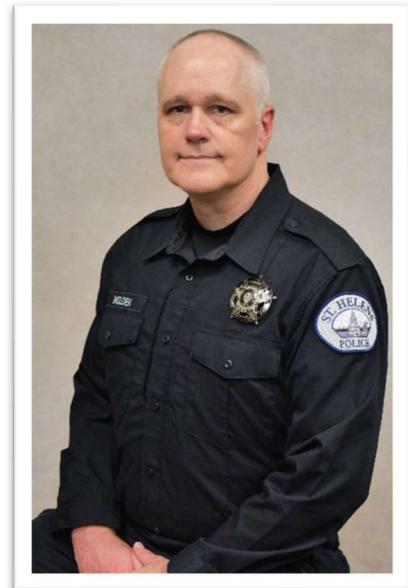
Patrol Officer Terry Massey, Jr.

Serving St. Helens since March 4, 2019



Patrol Officer McKenzie McClure

Serving St. Helens since June 30, 2021



Patrol Officer Matthew Molden

Serving St. Helens since October 21, 1999



Patrol Officer Adam Raethke

Serving St. Helens since June 10, 2019



Code Enforcement Officer Marimar Moreno

Serving St. Helens since October 16, 2018

Police Records & Evidence Specialist Hailey Holm

Serving St. Helens since October 26, 2020



Police Records & Evidence Specialist Pati Ruiz

Serving St. Helens since November 9, 2020





Police K-9 Ryder

Serving St. Helens since August 23, 2016

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The members of the St. Helens Police Department would like to take this opportunity to thank our City leaders and the citizens of this community for their continued support. The relationships shared by this Department are vital to our efforts of preventing crime and to our mission of creating a safe community.

## 2021 ELECTED OFFICIALS

### MAYOR

Rick Scholl

### CITY COUNCILORS

Doug Morten (Council President)

Jessica Chilton (Police Commissioner)

Stephen R. Topaz

Patrick Birkle

### CITY OF ST. HELENS STAFF

John Walsh (City Administrator)

Crystal King (Communications Officer)

